



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
March 7, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.
City of Blairsville City Hall
62 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA 30512

PRESENT:

Jim Conley, Mayor
Martha Cone, Council
Betty Easter, Council
Rhonda Mahan, Council
Buddy Moore, Council
David Barrett, City Attorney
Kaye McCann, City Clerk

ABSENT:

Tony Dyer, Council
Ottis Franklin
John Hamler

VISITORS:

Pastor Bill Schakat
Darren Harper, Michael Baxter
Larry Stephens, Jody Cook
Mark Smith, Brian Pritchard
Michael Davis, Pat Malone
Lily Avery, Ahleah Eberhardt

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was led by Pastor Bill Schakat and Mayor Conley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Conley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Martha Cone, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion was made by Martha Cone, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2017 regular meeting of the City Council.

Unfinished Business

- Truck Ordinance - Mayor Conley met with City Attorney Barrett to discuss the Truck Ordinance and will hopefully have more information at next month's meeting.

- Sewer for Commercial Property on Haralson Drive – Mayor Conley reported that he spoke with Notla Water Authority and they are willing to provide water to the City for \$2.50/1000 gallons. This would enable the City to provide water and sewer to commercial property along Pat Haralson Drive. Attorney Barrett met with Notla Water Authority Board and they requested that the City only provide services to commercial properties. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve negotiation with Notla Water Authority to purchase water for \$2.50/1000 gallons in order for the City to provide water and sewer to commercial properties along Pat Haralson Drive. Attorney Barrett will prepare agreement between City of Blairsville and Notla Water Authority.

New Business

- Managing Agent Change Applications
 - Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous

vote to approve the Alcohol License Managing Agent Change Application for Blairsville Marathon Convenience Store, Inc to Michael Davis.

- Motion was made by Betty Easter, seconded by Martha Cone with a unanimous vote to approve the Alcohol License Managing Agent Change Application for Copeland's LLC to Ahleah Eberhardt.

- Department Head Reports
 - Larry Stephens, WTP, reported there was one (1) recommendation after the sanitation survey which was to have the storage tanks inspected. Rehabilitation is also necessary on the basins. Chip McGaughey, City Engineer with EMI, has been consulted and he is coming up with a plan for the rehabilitation. Mayor Conley reported this expenditure will be paid from SPLOST.
 - Michael Baxter, PD, distributed monthly report and invited the Council to come out to the Super Chef Showdown to benefit Hope House on Saturday, March 11. The Police Department has cooked and placed in the past and he encouraged support for this year.
 - Jody Cook, WWTP, said the plant is running smoothly.
 - Darren Harper, DDA, distributed DDA report and stated Blairsville has become an area that businesses are looking to move.

- 2017 Georgia Downtown Affiliate Network MOA with DCA – Motion was made by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Martha Cone with a unanimous vote to authorize Mayor Conley to sign MOA agreement between City of Blairsville and Blairsville DDA. Agreement is included as Attachment A.

- Ordinance - Mayor Conley called for a Public Hearing for the 1st reading of Ordinance #2017-02 to amend Ordinance #2016-02 to include a section prohibiting brown bagging of alcoholic beverages for holders of an alcoholic license. Mayor Conley asked audience for questions or comments. There being none Mayor Conley closed Public Hearing. Mayor Conley asked Council if they had questions or comments. Councilmember Mahan asked if we could get information from the County Alcohol Board when they make changes to their ordinance.

- GMEBS Short Term Disability – Mayor Conley asked City Clerk Kaye McCann to report the issue with the Short Term Disability Policy with Great Georgia Life. Clerk McCann advised the Council that it came to her attention last month premiums for the Short Term Disability were being deducted from employees' paychecks in error. When the Council chose to offer this coverage to employees in January 2012 they were not informed that this was supposed to be funded by the City, not the employees and by having this insurance as part of the benefits package, every employee that was eligible for benefits were supposed to be enrolled. Premiums for this coverage have been paid by the employees who chose the coverage through payroll deduction. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to reimburse employees who paid premiums for Short Term Disability and to continue the insurance for all employees as a benefit paid by the City. GMEBS Declaration Effective 3/1/12 and 1/1/14 to add Short Term Disability is included as Attachment B as well as schedule of personnel, present and past, receiving a refund.

- Cook Street Water Line Replacement Project – Mayor Conley presented the Council with a proposal from City Engineer, Chip McGaughey of EMI, to replace the water line on Cook Street. The estimated construction cost is \$85,000. Project support costs are estimated at \$34,000 with \$9,000 built in for contingency costs. There are funds available for this expenditure in W/S Fund and the project will be sent out to bid. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve project. Proposal including map of project is included as Attachment C.
- Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit Applications
 - Motion by Betty Easter, seconded by Martha Cone with a unanimous vote to approve Occupational Tax Certificate to Old Mountain Electronics, LLC, 60A Rogers Street, Shawn Jinkerson & Ronny Benfield, Owners.
 - Motion by Betty Easter, seconded by Buddy Moore with a unanimous vote to approve Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit Application to Chapman & Chapman, PC, 49 Pruitt Circle, Lisa Strickland, Owner.
 - Motion by Buddy Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit Application to Pam's Back to Nature Health & Wellness Store, 294 Hwy 515 W, Suite G, Pamela Stanfield, Owner.
 - Motion by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Buddy Moore with a unanimous vote to approve Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit Application to BDRGA Investments, LLC, dba Blue Mountain Vapor & Apparel, 253 E Hwy 515, Suite 1-C, Roger Craig, Owner.

Motion was made by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting. Time 6:57 p.m.

Kaye McCann
City Clerk